

HAMLYN'S MENAGERIE MAGAZINE.



No. 5.—Vol. 5.

SEPTEMBER, 1919.

Price One Shilling.

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Arrivals of Wild Animals in Great Britain.

Commencing January, 1919.

COMPILED BY JOHN D. HAMLYN.

BOSTOCK—

May, 1919. 1 Leopard, with few small African animals.

HAMLYN—

February. 1 Mandrill.
3 Monkeys.

March. 4 Baboons.
1 Serval.

1 Cinet.

13 Pandas.

1 Cat.

400 Monkeys.

4 Sea Lions.

2 Zebras.

6 Porcupines.

1 Hunting Dog.

2 Dingoes.

1 Thar.

8 Baboons.

2 Meercats.

June. 1 Hyæna.

15 Rhesus.

1 Bonnet.

1 Malabar Squirrel.

1 Hamadrias Baboon.

21 Penguins.

July. 8 Seals, 11 Mynahs, 120 Avadavats, 1 Squirrel Monkey, 50 Rattlesnakes 51 Bull Snakes, 20 Corais, 16 Testaceous Snakes, 120 Imported Australian Finches, 3 Black Swans, 16 imported African Finches, 2 Blue Budgerigars, 1 Monster Egyptian Mongoose, 1 Squirrel Monkey, 1 Vervet, 1 Ringtail, 6 Polar Bear Cubs direct from The North Cape.

For arrivals (Sept.) see "The Trade."

THESE ARE THE ACTUAL IMPORTATIONS.

JOHN D. HAMLYN

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Hamlyn's Menagerie Magazine.

EDITED BY JOHN D. HAMLYN

No. 5.—Vol. 5.

LONDON, SEPTEMBER, 1919.

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

NOTICE.

The subscription for Vol. V., 1919—20, is 10/-, post free. All subscriptions commence with this number. Yearly subscriptions only received. Specimen copies can be sent post free on receipt of twelve penny stamps. Subscribers not receiving their Magazine should communicate at once with the Editor.

All letters to be addressed in future:—

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The Editor will be pleased to receive sporting articles and reminiscences, as well as items of news and reports of sport from all parts of the world. If stamped directed envelope be enclosed, the contributions will be returned if unsuitable.

All Subscribers in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland and Holland, who have not received their usual numbers, are requested to communicate at once with the Editor.



THE ADDO BUSH ELEPHANTS.

Just as we were going to press the courteous Editor of "The African World" advises as follows:—

"Special cable from Johannesburg, dated 25th inst.:—

Colonel Pretorius doing excellent work in Addo Bush amongst elephants instead of killing is trapping them alive to be placed in secure reserve."

Every credit is due to Pretorius for his great efforts to secure a noble interesting race from extinction. We congratulate him.

THE TRADE.

By JOHN D. HAMLYN.

A very interesting review of this Magazine appeared in "The Times" (Printing House Square) lately, and I intend to review that "review" here-with.

I think that "The Times" might have had the courtesy of mention who the dealer was who imported the first arrival of Indian animals for many years. The English dealer for many years past has been accused of want of enterprise, thereby allowing foreign competitors to sweep the field, and now when the first consignment arrives at fearful expense his name is considered not worthy of mention. If it had been a French or German or private importation, the world would have been fully informed as to the ownership; still I thank the writer for his most excellent article.

In the first paragraph the writer marvels where they all go. That opens up my grievance against the Zoological Societies of Great Britain. It will doubtless surprise my readers to know that the four Zoolcgical Societies of Great Britain—Bristol, Dublin, Edinburgh and London—have not made a single purchase from this marvellous consignment. I take it they are all waiting for trade to open up with Germany, but I can promise them this much, that they will find prices the same then as now quoted in London. It is useless comparing prices of to-day with those of six or ten years ago.

—Freights to-day are 150/- for 40 cubic feet; years ago they were 60/-. The fee for feeding and caretaking was then only 40/- up to 100/-; now £10 to £20. The Societies might say there is no need for such payments, my answer to that is that common decency and fairness demands it. Every labourer is worthy of his hire.

Allowing the second paragraph to pass, I will now deal with the third one, where details

are requested as to the methods adopted in landing the consignment off Southend-on-Sea. I have already explained that I chartered a tug at Gravesend, which met us at Tilbury landing stage, proceeding straight to the steamer which was lying some distance off Southend pier. Twenty-nine cages were hoisted over the ship's side on to the tug which was alongside the steamer. We returned to Tilbury landing stage where the whole consignment was landed. The railway officials were very obliging for which I again thank them. There is no difficulty moving wild animals about by rail if you know how to do it.—

NORWEGIAN TRADE.

Just a few words on the wily Norwegian trader. It has been the custom for years past to receive telegrams asking for best offers for White Bears, Musk Oxen, Foxes, etc.

Occasionally I was foolish enough to telegraph offers. I now discover that these offers were made the basis of prices on which they offered to public Societies, also private people. Just lately I offered two hundred pounds for two Musk Oxen in the far North. And now I hear that they accepted £200 plus 10% from a certain Zoological Society. My offer was used to obtain 10% more.

From enquiries I have made I find that as soon as a vessel arrives in the Northern Ports with animals or skins a horde of touts lay siege to the steamer, telegraphing the animals here, there and everywhere, "subject to being unsold." Never again does a Norwegian obtain an offer from me. Never!

JOHN DANIEL

appears to be going strong at our Zoological Gardens. He has improved wonderfully. I now hear that £800 has been offered from America for him.

This amuses me greatly, for I was informed by the New York Society that my price, £300, was too high, and I would not have offered it to them if I could have sold it in Great Britain. They insinuated that there was not a Gorilla buyer in Great Britain.

Dear, dear me; and yet I had six buyers!

AFRICAN CONSIGNMENTS.

I received by the "Cluny Castle" four Stanley Cranes and eight Baboons. The Cranes were booked by Mr. Astley two months ago.

There are four more arriving shortly with a Springbok which are unsold. There is one extra fine male Chacma in this consignment, one of the

largest I have ever imported. The pair Blessbok, which arrived in the previous steamer "York Castle" have vastly improved and are worth the attention of all buyers.

I am receiving monthly consignments of small African birds. Prices will be reasonable.

AUSTRALIAN BIRDS.

Reports state that one of the old Catchers is on his way to Europe with a large collection of Finches.

I presume prices will be reasonable.

I have, however, arranged for a small number of Parrots and Finches to arrive in the early part of January, 1920. My readers may rest assured that prices of Australian Parrots, Parakeets and Finches will soon revert to normal times.

SENEGAL BIRDS.

I was offered 2,000 pairs of these birds, but the risk of their travelling through France to Boulogne-sur-Mer was so great, that I finally declined them. The price was extremely low.

My readers may expect Senegal Finches shortly at the old price.

COLLECTORS.

I have two collectors in South Africa, one in India, and one is leaving Barcelona on the 10th October for Cuba and Venezuela.

Accompanying this Magazine is a detailed Price List.

Considering the times we live in this is a wonderful collection of Animals, Birds and Reptiles, worthy of inspection. Bear in mind, every specimen mentioned in the List can be seen here at any time.

INDIAN CONSIGNMENTS.

I cannot undertake any importations at present on account of the market price of the rupee being 2/- instead of 1/5. A 2/- rupee is quite impossible at present.

FISH AS PETS.

By FRANK FINN.

Fish have many advantages as pets; they do not bark, or screech, nor do they scatter seed.

about the room, and so they cannot be an annoyance to their owner's friends, while many of them are long-lived, and display much more intelligence than they are usually credited with. In beauty, too, they rival in some cases almost any of the birds, so that it is not surprising that quite a fancy for them was developing before the war put a stop to their importation—a fancy that I hope will revive, so long as our dealers and other Allies import them, and not the Germans.

The fancy in aquarium pets was, however, no new thing; fish were the favourite pets of some of the wealthy among the ancient Romans, who in some cases made themselves as extravagantly silly over them as people in the Middle Ages did over their hawks, or as some people do over their dogs now-a-days. Roman amateurs liked big fish, and kept them in tanks; a favourite kind was the muraena, a big sea-eel variegated like a snake, and fiercer than our conger-eel, which is saying a good deal. The ancients, by the way, said there was a standing feud between the muraena and the conger, which is quite likely, on the principle that two of a trade never agree. One Roman lady of high degree put ear-rings on her pet muraena, which made quite a nine days' wonder of the fish, and a male amateur wept so much over the decease of his particular pride of the pond that another mocked at him for it, and was answered that at any rate the mocker had not grieved so much over any of his wives, of whom he had lost more than one. Another wealthy Roman had the playful habit of throwing any of his slaves who had offended into the muraenas tank; on one occasion he ordered this fate for a poor wretch who had broken a valuable goblet, when the Emperor Augustus was dining with him. The slave pleaded with the Emperor to intercede for him, saying that it was not dying he minded so much, as the horror of it; that a man should be torn to pieces by fish. But his master, who had once been a slave himself, would not listen even to the Emperor, so Augustus put his foot down, and not only freed the slave, and baulked this cruel design, but had all the master's crockery smashed and his ponds filled up, showing that even a despot may at times have a better heart than a subject.

The Romans seem to have specialized on sea-fish, but for most people now-a-days fresh-water fish are the only suitable kinds to keep, and the familiar gold-fish, when of a good colour, cannot be beaten for beauty, and it is also lively, which some very lovely fish are not. Gold-fish are very dear just now, costing about a shilling an inch—big ones always were dear, even in normal times, but this price was paid recently for four-inch specimens. The gold, pied, and silver ones do not represent the natural colour, which is bronze, and one or two of this colour will set off the bril-

liance of the other varieties. I know of one bronze specimen which has been in a small indoor tank for at least six years, but they live much longer than this, though of no use for breeding after a few years old. Those at Hampton Court—where when I saw them they were as big as herrings—must have been a good age.

In India they thrive as well as in England; and at the Sikh temple at Dehra Dun they had a very large tank well stocked with them. The original stock had been given them by a European and the natives much admired them, as they were only familiar in Calcutta. There they were hawked about for sale in bottles, and it was easy to get the fine fan-tailed Japanese breed, which is rare over here. The Japanese have got other remarkable varieties, as they are great goldfish fanciers; some of these breeds have warty heads, and look very ugly to an outsider. The native home of the goldfish is China, but it has been introduced, and become quite wild, in other countries, at any rate in Madagascar and the United States. When thus restored to its natural condition, it goes back to the original bronze colour, and in America is even caught and sold as "Sand Perch"! Those in English ponds, however, keep up the golden tint; but I should think this would require some weeding out of the undesirable colours. All goldfish, by the way, are hatched dark, but the better they are the sooner they assume the fashionable tint.

Next to the goldfish I should put the Paradise fish, which, like the goldfish, is a Chinese fish, but belongs to a quite different family, the goldfish being one of the carp family. There are, by the way, golden varieties of other fish of the carp family also; the common carp, the tench, and the orfe, which is very like a dace. They are not, however, nearly so rich in colour as the real goldfish, and I have only seen one white common carp and one white orfe, and never a white tench; nor have I seen any of these fish pied with black as goldfish often are, though tench and orfe may have dark spots. It is curious that white varieties of fish seem never to have pink eyes, and that goldfish, though often tri-coloured, red, black and white, are so rarely black and white only; I have only seen two or three thus marked.

To return to Paradise fish; they are very different in shape from goldfish, being shorter and deeper, with the long fins on the back and belly much longer behind than in front, the opposite of what is seen among fish generally. As the fish is a rather short and deep one, this formation of the fins does not improve its appearance, though the adult male specimens have a quaint gracefulness of their own in their long streaming tails. The Paradise fish, however, yields to none in the charm of its colour; on a ground of bronze are

drawn vertical bars of blue and scarlet, and most of the fins are also red and blue, with a lustre so intense at the edges that it looks like fire. Moreover, the colour changes in a most attractive way; sometimes there is no blue visible, and the fish is all red and bronze; at other times the red has gone, and the fish not only has blue stripes but a blue face as well. Paradise fish do not grow bigger than sprats, and are quiet in their ways, so that a pair will do well in a little tank a foot long; but they must be kept in a warm place, being very susceptible to cold.

At the little naturalist's establishment in Covent Garden which many of my readers will remember, Paradise fish used, except in warm weather, to have a little gas jet on underneath their tank, and I never saw any looking so rich in colour. They are nest-building fish, the male blowing bubbles with which he forms a little house for the eggs; he has also another bird-like habit of moving sideways with all his fins expanded when in the courting mood.

ROYAL GAME.

A test case of considerable interest to sportsmen and farmers was brought before the Magistrate of Middleburg last week for the purpose of deciding what constitutes Royal game. As is well known (remarks the "Cape Argus") under the game laws of this Province several species of buck and birds are closely protected. This is a wise provision. Were it not that koodoo, hartebeest, blesbok, and similar animals had been brought under the law relating to Royal game they would no doubt have long since become extinct. Generally speaking, no true sportsmen objects to the protection given to these animals. But it was made evident by the case tried at Middleburg that the law, as administered, is in some respects irritating and arbitrary. The facts may be briefly summarised. Mr. Montagu Gadd, a well-known and progressive Eastern Province farmer, and also a thorough sportsman, has for many years past gone to considerable expense and trouble to rear Royal game on his property. He purchased originally a herd of nine blesbok from Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, brought them down to Middleburg from Harrismith, and for nine months fed them daily. Other farmers in the district have done the same with zebra, fallow deer, and Indian black buck. But the question arose whom did these animals belong to? The authorities held that they belonged to the Crown. Mr. Gadd, contended that as he had bought them, reared them, and provided for their accommodation on his farm, they were his property. In order to test the point Mr.

Gadd invited a police officer to visit his farm, and, in the presence of the officer, he shot a blesbok ram. In justification of his action Mr. Gadd pleaded that as with tame animals, so with wild animals, it is necessary when breeding to keep the numbers down to certain proportions otherwise the land would become overstocked and herds and flocks would suffer. No farmer permits the number of his sheep or cattle to increase beyond the capacity of his veld, and, at stated periods he found it necessary to thin out the Royal game, which, he contended, belonged to him personally. The legal point at issue was fully argued, and ultimately the magistrate, in delivering judgment, agreed with the contention of the defendant. He said: "The game laws might have served conditions in the past, but they were to-day entirely out of sympathy with present conditions. They were certainly irksome to those who conserved game. Far from breaking the law, the accused had carried out the spirit of the law, and conserved game ever since he took occupation of the farm." For these reasons the accused was found not guilty and discharged. Under the circumstances, this seems a reasonable finding, and had the magistrate, in delivering his judgment, stopped there, his decision might have been accepted as, more or less, establishing the principle that men who breed Royal game on their own properties are justified in disposing of it as they think fit. But, unfortunately, the magistrate added in rider. He said that his finding "would not preclude the prosecutor bringing the case to the notice of the Attorney-General for a definite ruling." What is really needed is a judicial decision. That can only be got from the judges. It is no part of the duty of the Attorney-General, or any other official of the Government, to instruct magistrates, directly or indirectly, how they are to deal with points of law that are raised before them. Magistrates must be, in such matters, independent or they cannot command the confidence of the public.

BRITAIN'S WILD BIRDS.

PRESERVATION PROPOSALS.

SUNDAY A "CLOSE DAY."

Lovers of wild birds will be greatly interested in the important recommendations contained in the report of the Departmental Committee on the Protection of wild birds which was issued as a White Paper by the Home Office yesterday. For the purpose of advising the central authorities, the Committee recommend that an Ornithological Advisory Committee should at once be set up in London

analogous to the Hungarian Central Office of Ornithology and the Ornithological Bureau already existing in the United States of America. The Committee should be selected with a view to obtaining the necessary advice on questions connected with bird protection. It is suggested that protection should be given to all birds during the breeding season, which might properly be from March 1 to September 1 inclusive, subject to the right of an owner or occupier of land or person authorised by him in writing to take on such land any bird injurious to his interests. There are, however, two schedules of birds not subject to such a right, the first consisting of birds which receive absolute protection during the breeding season, and the second of birds receiving absolute protection all the year round.

The first list includes :

Arctic or Richardson's skua, black-throated diver, black-tailed godwit, capercaille, dotterel, duck (all species), eared grebe, fork-tailed petrel, goldfinch, great-crested grebe, great skua, greenshank, grey lag-goose, hobby, kestrel, kingfisher, marsh warbler, merlin, night jar, nightingale, peregrine falcon, pied flycatcher, quail, raven, red-necked phalarope, red-throated diver, ringed plover, ruff and reeve, siskin, Slavonian-grebe, snipe, stone-curlew, swan, terns (all species), water-rail, whimbrel, wood-lark, woodpeckers (all species), and wryneck.

The second schedule, birds absolutely protected all the year round, includes the following : Avocet, Baillcn's crake, bearded reedling or bearded titfouse, bittern, bustard, buzzard, chough, crested titmouse, Dartford warbler, golden eagle, golden oriole, harriers (all species), honey buzzard, hoopoo, Kentish plover, kite, long-eared owl, osprey, pallas and grouse, sea eagle, short-eared owl, spoonbill, St. Kilda wren, tawny owl, and the white or barn owl.

It is suggested that power should be given to the central authority, on the application of the local authority, to extend or vary the close time or to add to or subtract from these schedules either for a local area or for the whole country, and to exempt certain destructive birds from all protection. There should be a special close time for woodcock, and the Committee recommend that the time should be from February 1 to October 1 each year. The Committee are of opinion that the protection of eggs should follow the same lines as the protection of the birds themselves, and recommend that the eggs of the birds in the schedules given should be protected by statute. The cases of the lapwing and woodcock require special consideration, and it is suggested that in the case of the lapwing eggs and nests be abso-

lutely protected, except that owners or persons authorised by them in writing, should be allowed to take the eggs on their own land up to April 15, and that in the case of the woodcock, eggs and nests should be absolutely protected from February 1 to August 1. Pointing out that the existing law makes no mention of nests, the Committee recommend that it should be an offence to take, disturb, or destroy the nest of any bird whose eggs are protected. After recommending the arranging of counties into ornithological groups, the opinion is expressed that in cases where, through the inertia of the local authority, no order or a totally inadequate order is applied for, there should be a power in the central authority on its own initiative to issue a suitable order or to modify an existing order.

BIRD SANCTUARIES.

The power to create sanctuaries for birds and eggs is strongly recommended by the Committee, who suggest that these should be made use of as far as possible by the central and local authorities. Such areas should be maintained automatically as reserves for bird life. The Committee recommend that there should be complete protection of all birds and eggs within all Royal forests, subject to a provision allowing the killing or taking of particular birds or the taking of their eggs by authorised persons, such as keepers and others, for approved purposes. They further suggest the sympathetic consideration of the payment of a small subsidy from the State to assist in the provision of watchers for public sanctuaries, and recommend that all killing or taking of birds in any public place, highway, by-way, common or waste land, should be prohibited throughout the year.

There had been considerable discussion before the Committee on the question of Sunday protection for all birds throughout the country, and the Committee, being of opinion that complete immunity for bird life on one day in seven is likely to assist in maintaining the bird population, recommend that there should be general protection of all birds, eggs, and nests throughout the country on Sundays. As under the existing law there is no power to grant permission to take scheduled birds during the protected period, or any eggs which are protected, without removing both from protection for a whole country, the Committee consider that a provision should be made for the granting of licenses for the purposes of useful investigation. Licenses should only be granted to suitable persons above the age of 18 by the central authority on the advice of the Ornithological Advisory Committee.

Amongst the offences under the proposed new bill which the Committee suggest should be drafted

to carry out their proposals, is that the use of mechanically-propelled boats or vehicles for the purpose of killing or taking wild birds should be prohibited. A new danger to bird life has, it is pointed out, been introduced by the shooting or bombing of birds from aircraft, and already considerable destruction has resulted. The Committee recommend that the use of aircraft for the purpose of killing or taking wild birds should be prohibited. The Committee also recommend that rewards should be given to informers where conviction results.

Recognising that the trade of bird catcher is of great antiquity, and having no desire to see it interfered with provided safeguards are established, the Committee think it would be well if all bird catchers were required to take out a license, costing, say, 5/- a year. They also recommend that there should be regular and careful inspection of shops and places where birds are kept with a view to the prevention of the keeping of birds under bad conditions, and that bird dealers should also be required to take out a license. With regard to international action for the protection of birds, the Paris Convention of 1902 is discussed in detail. Provided certain difficulties in the Convention can be overcome, the Committee recommend that the Convention should be adopted by his Majesty's Government, and that the necessary amendments in the law should be incorporated in the new Act.



THE NGOLOKO—What was it?

A MYSTERY OF THE AFRICAN BUSH.

The London "Sphere" gives the following particulars of a supposed strange beast.

During the war there came to our notice an account of a mysterious animal or being seen in the African Bush, but owing to the pressure of war news, we were unable to set it before our readers at the time. The first public account of this strange being, the Ngoloko, appeared in "Blackwood's Magazine," from which, with their permission, we give the following condensed account.

The writer of the narrative describes the scene as he penetrated a mangrove swamp with his party of natives. They camped not far from the sea, with dry sandy mud immediately around them, and great mangroves and swamp vegetation beyond. Night comes, and it so happens that an eclipse of the moon takes place. The men talk of things lucky and unlucky, when there is a

sudden sound—"Oo-ee"—clear and penetrating through the night.

"What is that?" I say. No one answers.

Then another 'voice,' nearer this time, and with a note in it that sets ones' hair on end.

"What is that?" I repeat more peremptorily.

"The Ngoloko!" whispers some one.

A couple of extra logs are thrown on the fire and all close in.

The men tell queer stories of the strange beast, semi-human in appearance, and of various encounters with it.

The Ngoloko—or, as it is also named in various dialects of parts of the East African Coast, Milhoi, Millihoi, Mallihoya, or Maleddi—whatever else he may be, is evidently regarded as a formidable "Jinnee."

One of the most curious points in these native narratives, and one that keeps recurring throughout, is the creature's power of human speech. In moments of great terror it can be understood how gross mistakes can be made, but several of the observers were under no such influence—had, in fact, at first no knowledge of the presence of the Ngoloko. Are we to assume that it is a delusion? Inquiries show that no mysterious disappearances are attributed to its agency; no cases of mental collapses.

It was not until a little later that the author actually came across strange footprints, which were thought to be those of a Ngoloko.

My work took me that day some eight or nine miles away, and on my way back to camp, which had not been shifted, I left the footpath I had been following and, in spite of the mid-day heat, struck after some game. I was not much more than half a mile from camp, and was crossing one of the bare spaces of dry, sandy clay, when I came upon a spoor such as I had never seen to that day. My boys noticed it, too, and we all stood looking at it for some little time.

"What has passed here?" I inquired at length.

"The Ngoloko!"

"How old is this spoor?"

"About twelve hours." Others agreed.

"Yes, Bwana; we told you it was the Ngoloko, and you would not believe us. Now you know how it was that we did not sleep."

And I did, for the tracks were indisputable; and they were tracks of a creature I should not care to meet without a loaded rifle at hand.

A reproduction of the footprint was taken on the spot by placing a piece of paper over the track and marking the outline with a pencil. In

ordinary soil this would not have been possible, but here, on the crusted, sandy mud, conditions were ideal. We followed the spoor for a quarter of a mile, examining, measuring, and comparing it with human tracks.

As a result of my observations I obtained the following data:—

(1) The animal is a biped.

(2) The print had been made by a pad and not by a hoof, except that, at the point, a deep and sharp hole demonstrated the presence of a large nail or single claw.

(3) A thumb mark of considerable dimensions was a special feature; there was no trace of toes, except in one case, where very slight indentations by such seemed to have been made.

(4) A heel was observed; but the weight of the animal was usually cast forward on to the main portion of the foot and thumb.

(5) Its weight was judged to be at least twice that of an average man, and probably more.

(6) A certain part of the spoor showed the animal to be walking very slowly; there the stride measured 18 in. from tip of the toe of one foot to the heel of the other. It had also taken several gambols at one place, and crossed its legs when doing so. When travelling at what I should imagine to be a jog-trot the stride measured 8 ft.; two strides were found to be 9 ft.; whilst a considerably greater distance, it is presumed, could be covered when at top speed or jumping.

Since the publication of the above, the following note from the author has come to our hands: "The game ranger at Nairobi thinks the spoor is that of an ostrich. . . . It is curious—but only by this mail I have heard from the A.D.C. at Lamu that which makes it seem more probable or at least possible that the spoor I saw was really that of a Ngoloko. I have shown my original copy of it to many natives, and some think it that of an ostrich and some emphatically do not. Personally I am inclined to think that the game ranger is mistaken."

THE "HUMAN" BABOON.

A Rhodesian reader sends the "Morning Post" a note on the "almost human intelligence shown by South African baboons." A troop of baboons has its own particular district, on which no other troop will encroach. The baboon is a great pest, owing to its habit of raiding ripening

crops. Scouts always precede a raiding party and send back warning if the field is guarded. Sentries are posted in trees round the spot chosen for the raid, while the troop gets to work on the grain. The sentries are relieved from time to time to enable them to join in the feast. Meetings of the patriarchs are held in the evenings on the rocks at the top of the home kopje. These old fellows sit round in a solemn circle, apparently discussing the affairs of the tribe. Youngsters butting in are promptly cuffed and sent about their business. Baboon mothers put their naughty babies across their knees and spank them, just as a human mother spanks her troublesome offspring, and the cries of the punished ones greatly resemble those of human infants. Our correspondent, adds the paper in question, frequently found himself imagining that he was witnessing a scene from the lives of our old cave ancestors.

BORN WITHOUT EYES.

A WONDERFUL ANIMAL.

An example of the physical defects of one of the parents being handed down to its progeny in a much more accentuated form is owned by Mr. R. F. Chambers at his farm "Blaauwtjes Drift," beyond the Brook, in the shape of a cow. The animal was born, not only blind, but destitute of any eye balls. It was thought that an incision beneath the eye lashes, just after birth might prove effective, but on the operation being performed the operator and the owner were surprised that the young calf had no semblance of eyes. The little animal, however, from birth thrived as well as any normal healthy occupant of the byre and in the course of time developed its senses of hearing and smelling to a remarkable degree and grew up into a strong, healthy heifer. The most wonderful thing is that it has developed an instinct which we do not think is apparent in a human being born blind, and that is that it has never been known to run into an obstacle of any kind, whether it be a fence, tree or a more substantial object. It finds its grazing as well as any other cow by its keen sense of smell and has always been in the pink of condition. It has reared a family of four. Its mother at the time it was calved was stone blind, but the dam herself had been normal at birth and had developed blindness in the adult stage. Whether this defect had a prenatal effect we leave it to the people versed in animal heredity, but the lay man who knows little of the workings of nature, would come to the conclusion that it had.

GENERAL NOTES.

By JOHN D. HAMILYN.

THAT "The Financial Times" prints the following :

Last year a company was floated for the purpose of dealing in "wild animals and other living creatures," the idea being to capture the German trade in trained and wild animals. This trade had its centre in Hamburg and supplied zoological gardens, circuses, etc., with the animals required. A band of British sportsmen formed a syndicate known as the World's Zoological Trading Company, to carry on a similar trade on a more humane basis. Another strange company has now been registered, dealing more particularly with sea lions. The style of the company is as follows :

Woodward's (Kingston-by-Sea), Ltd. (158,260).—Private company. Registered 26th August. Capital £500, in £1 shares. To carry on the business of trainers, exhibitors and breeders of and dealers in sea lions, seals and other animals, music hall and theatrical proprietors, etc. The first directors are : J. G. Woodward, 'Mayville,' Kingston-by-Sea, Sussex, animal trainer (also described as motor engineer); Mrs. A. Woodward, 43, Basuto Road, Fulham, S.W., stage artiste. Solicitor, V. G. H. Hicks, Moorgate Station Chambers, E.C. Registered office, "Mayville," Kingston-by-Sea, Sussex.

Mr. Woodward's extraordinarily intelligent sea lions, of course, are known to all the readers of this Magazine.

THAT the following cutting has been sent from Paris :

The wild boars which developed so rapidly during the war owing to the game-shooting restrictions, continue their depredations in the neighbourhood of forests. This is particularly the case in the vicinity of the Challonnais forests. Those killed recently there were found to have the stomach full of grapes. In preceding years it was with maize and potatoes that the boars fattened themselves for the table. Boar-flesh this year may therefore be expected to be a great delicacy.

THAT Mr. Woodward, Southwick, Sussex, offers a reward of one hundred pounds to a person or persons catching and returning uninjured "Billiken," a clever performing sea lion which escaped from Shoreham Harbour on June 23rd last.

Poor "Billiken" was supposed to hunt the U Boats, now he is hunted by everybody. I cannot understand Woodward's belief in sea lions hunting submarine craft. That was quite impossible.

THAT the Scottish Zoological Park, Edinburgh, have received from Calcutta two striped Hyenas, two Indian Jackals, two Indian Pythons, a Mongoose, and three varieties of Monkeys.

If I had attempted a consignment like this the expenses would have been more than the value of the animals.

There is an absolute craze on now by every Zoological Society importing its own stock. It does not matter so long as they can avoid the Dealers. Never mind ! WAIT AND SEE !!

THAT the arrivals in the trade have been, so far as I can gather, pair Blessbok, nine Chacma Baboons, one long armed yellow Baboon, nine Vervet Monkeys, three Porcupines, twelve horned Guinea Fowls, one brown Heron, four Egyptian Geese, three rosy-faced Lovebirds, four Stanley Cranes, two red-headed Finches, and one Meyers Parrot. There has been a private importation of some hundred South African birds which I have purchased, also nine Mongooses, with thirty tri-coloured Manakins.

I have no knowledge of Liverpool arrivals this month.

THAT the Zoological Society, London, have received during the past two months a wonderful assortment of stock, they are also receiving shortly from India four Leopards, a Sloth Bear, one Nilgar, one Cheetah, Lion and Lioness, two black Bucks, and one Sambur.

THAT the Zoo Viper Pit outside the Reptile House is one of the great summer attractions at the Zoo.

THAT I am still awaiting particulars from Mr. Jordan, World's Zoological Trading Co., of the consignment of live stock promised on the 20th September.

THAT I have just been informed that three collectors for The World's Zoological Co. left Antwerp by last week's mail steamer for Boma.

They will now have an opportunity of inspecting Mr. Jordan's Game Reserve adjacent to the railway. Doubtless they are going to the Ituri District in search of the Okapi. I wish the unfortunate men well.

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